

HEROES

In the War on Terror

Each week the Defense Dept. highlights the military men and women who have gone above and beyond in the global war on terror.



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Broken Arrow, Okla.
Silver Star recipient

Army Cpl. Clinton A. Warrick

Sept. 18, 2006, was a typical morning for platoon medic Cpl. Warrick: The sun was bright, and U.S. military police and Iraqi policemen were conducting their usual transitional training at the Al Huria police station in Iraq. Suddenly, without warning, small-arms fire erupted from all directions. The base was under siege. Coalition forces concentrated fire on the attackers, but then a speeding pick-up truck crashed through the entrance and careened toward the center of the station. The truck detonated its 200-pound aircraft bomb, throwing Cpl. Warrick several meters and knocking him unconscious. Rubble from the explosion buried him. Warrick's platoon leader saw what happened and quickly pulled him from the debris. Warrick's legs were on fire – so the platoon leader used a fire extinguisher to put out the flames. When Warrick regained consciousness, he realized that he was badly burned – but he also realized that if he sat in one place, he would go into shock. He requested morphine, but his medic bag was buried in the burning building. As a medic, he knew that without pain medication, his only choice to avoid slipping into shock was to stay active. So he climbed through a hole in the building to see how he could assist. With a heavy stream of fire still reigning down on the station, and suffering from third-degree burns over 45 percent of his body as well as shrapnel wounds and smoke-inhalation injuries, Warrick went about the work of a medic: He assessed injured soldiers and Iraqi policemen – and told the nearby support battalion what injuries they could expect. That vital information helped save the lives of seven Iraqi policemen.

Warrick realized he couldn't fight off the shock much longer, so he moved to the north side of the station where he could be evacuated to the medical station himself. For his life-saving actions while suffering from life-threatening wounds, Warrick was awarded the Silver Star on Dec. 11, 2006.

South Carolina Army National Guard Warrant Officer 3 Austin Norris

You simply cannot keep some people away from battle – despite injuries that would sideline most. Then-Warrant Officer 2 Norris was deployed to Iraq in November 2004. One month after his arrival, Norris and his gunner, Capt. Pipkin (see Pipkin's [profile](#)), were called in to support a unit taking fire from insurgents in Mosul. Soon after they arrived, the insurgents scattered. Instead of flying back to base, Norris and Pipkin flew their Apache back toward the center of the city in response to a tip that a vehicle-borne IED was heading toward the unit they were supporting. As they approached, insurgents on the ground began firing at the helicopter, which was hit several times by armor-piercing rounds. One of the rounds ricocheted and hit Norris's forearm, shattering his radius. Capt. Pipkin took over the helicopter's controls and delivered Norris safely to the Mosul hospital.

Norris wanted to return to battle, and after six operations – including a metal plate in his arm and a bone graft – and three months of therapy, he got his wish. Norris went on to support several other combat missions, including an incident in July 2005 that led to the killing of at least eight insurgents. In August 2005, he supported a U.S. Special Forces unit and Iraqi SWAT team during a night air assault near Baghdad. As the team gathered in the area, heavy ground fire erupted – but Norris's team managed to locate and eliminate the enemies. During that engagement, Norris's aircraft was hit and the engine severely damaged. Despite this, Norris managed to make it back to base safely. In all, he logged 470 combat flying hours.



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